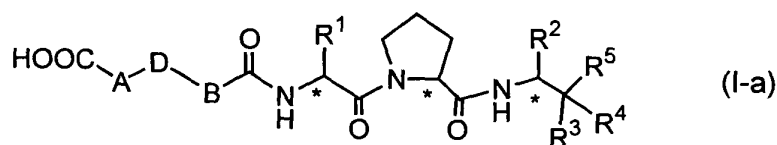


ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a heterocyclic compound of the following formula (I-a), its ester, or a salt thereof, and a human neutrophilic elastase inhibitor containing the same as the active ingredient, etc.



wherein A and B are the same or different and each is a lower alkylene group being optionally substituted by an oxo group, D is a heteromonocyclic or heterobicyclic group being optionally substituted by an oxo group, R¹ and R² are the same or different and each is a lower alkyl group, R³ and R⁴ are different from each other, and each is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxy group, or both combine together to form an oxo group, and R⁵ is 2-benzoxazolyl, trifluoromethyl, benzylamino-carbonyl, etc.